



# Southeast Fishery Bulletin

National Marine Fisheries Service, Southeast Regional Office, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702

## FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **Public Comment Period on Proposed Rule for Amendment 3 to the FMP for the Golden Crab Fishery of the South Atlantic Region**

NOAA Fisheries announces that it has published a proposed rule for Amendment 3 to the Fishery Management Plan for the Golden Crab Fishery of the South Atlantic Region. Written comments must be received on or before January 11, 2002.

#### Amendment 3 would:

Extend through December 31, 2002, the allowed use of cable for a mainline attached to a golden crab trap. Clarify the size of the required escape panel or door on a golden crab trap.

Remove the catch requirement for renewing a commercial vessel permit for golden crab.

Allow the issuance of a commercial vessel permit for golden crab for the southern zone for a vessel that held a valid permit for the southern zone in October 2000, but did not meet the 5,000-lb requirement for renewal in the following year.

Allow a vessel greater than 65 feet in length with a permit to fish in the southern zone to fish also in the northern zone for three years.

Allow two new commercial vessel permits to be issued for the northern zone.

Provide that a commercial vessel permit will not be renewed if the Regional Administrator does not receive an application for renewal by June 30 each year.

Liberalize the allowed increase in the size of a

permitted vessel.

Create a small-vessel sub-zone in the southern zone in which only permitted vessels 65 feet in length or less may fish for golden crab, and prohibit fishing for golden crab by such small vessels in the remainder of the southern zone.

Add measures related to the proposed sub-zone to the list of management measures that may be modified via the Fishery Management Plan's framework procedure. Specify maximum sustainable yield and status determination criteria for the golden crab fishery.

Comments on the proposed rule for Amendment 3 should be sent to Peter Eldridge, Southeast Regional Office, NMFS, 9721 Executive Center Drive N., St. Petersburg, FL 33702. Comment may also be sent to Peter Eldridge via FAX to (727) 570-5583. Comments will not be accepted if submitted via e-mail or the Internet.

Request for Amendment 3 should be sent to the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council, One Southpark Circle, Suite 306, Charleston, SC 29407-4699; telephone: (843) 571-4366; FAX: (843) 769-4520; e-mail: [safmc@noaa.gov](mailto:safmc@noaa.gov). Request for the proposed rule should be sent to Peter Eldridge.

The NMFS is an agency of the Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.